

From: Barbara Wilkie
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2002 12:45 PM
To: masten@niehs.nih.gov
Subject: Iso E Super toxicology testing

Scott A. Masten, Ph.D.
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Dear Dr. Scott Masten:

RE: Iso E Super

I strongly support toxicology testing of the fragrance chemical Iso E Super. This is a commonly used ingredient in fragrances.

We cannot assume that because Iso E Super is widely used that it is safe. Our modern public health statistics might be indicating otherwise. There are too many instances of a one-word response by our experts when asked "WHY?" regarding the skyrocketing rates of asthma, cancers, neurological problems, reproduction problems including sick infants who make it to term, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, etc. That one word is "UNEXPLAINED."

Let's start looking at the chemicals in fragrance formulations. Maybe we'll find some EXPLANATIONS.

Iso E Super -- Ethanone, 1-(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8- octahydro-2,3,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthalenyl)- -- was found via chemical analysis of Calvin Klein's Eternity eau de parfum to be 11.7 percent of the fragrance formula. However, a search of materials, including Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) revealed very little information about this chemical. From the Analysis Summary --

<http://users.lmi.net/~wilworks/FDApetition/analysis.htm> -- we learn:

"A search of literature revealed very little available health or toxicology information. This compound is in common use in fragrances often at levels of 25%. (Perfumery: Practice and Principle)."

I suggest this chemical be studied and that further study includes whether or not this chemical bioaccumulates in tissue . . . human and our wildlife, quite literally downstream.

Iso E Super is a great starting point for investigating fragrance chemicals as we know so little about it and yet it is a common fragrance ingredient, used at a fairly high percentage of the fragrance formula.

If we use Iso E Super as a starting point, that means its time to start thoroughly investigating all of the chemicals used in fragrances -- and also those hidden in pesticides as inerts or hidden in pesticides by the word "fragrance." Our trade secret and proprietary information laws can't really protect industry as anyone wishing to make a "rip-off" product has access to the equipment necessary to analyze the products. However, these laws do shield industry very well from the consumer and astute doctors, making a mockery of the public's right-to-know.

Thank you for considering toxicology testing of Iso E Super.

Sincerely,
Barbara Wilkie
President EHN

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May 11, 1999: Toxic chemicals, including phthalates, found in fragrances. See the FDA Petition on EHN
<http://www.ehnca.org/FDApetition/bkgrinfo.htm>
E-mail the FDA: <fdadockets@oc.fda.gov>
Reference: Docket Number 99P-1340

July 10, 2002: Phthalates found in fragrances and other cosmetics, as well as in plastics.
See Not Too Pretty
<http://www.NotTooPretty.org>

More info on fragrances & health
<http://www.fpinva.org>